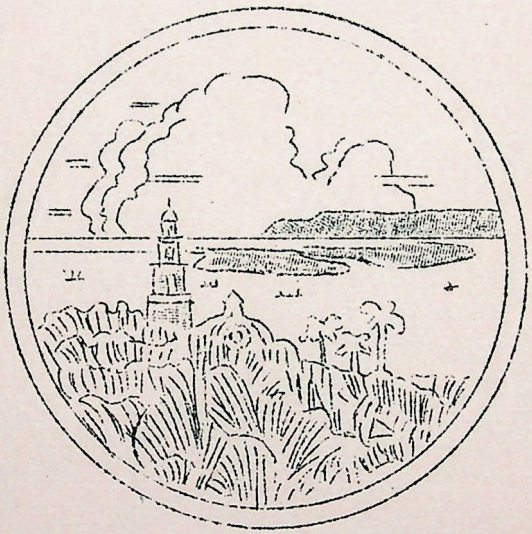
The ROUND ROBIN



A Bulletin of Contact and Information for Students of Psychic Research and Parapsychology.

Published by N. Meade Layne, M.A.
Three-Six-One-Five Alexia Place,
SAN DIEGO, 4, California.

Volume 2. No. 1

ROUND ROBIN

Volume II January 1946 No. 1

Electrical Ghosts, by Vincent Gaddis. (Startling semi-materializations in magnetic fields) . . . . .Pages 1/3

Field Theory and Survival, and Plan for Securing Survival Evidence, by Attorney William Randall (review and critique of two articles in the ASPR Journal) . . . . .Pages 4/5

Ball Lightning, and the Elementals, by Dr Charles J. Ryan, Contributing Editor of Theosophical Forum. (Surprising correlation of little-known facts. . . . . .Pages 6/7

A Twice-Told Tale, or Mosses from an Old Hant. (Story about an unpublishable story, or, things that can't happen but do.) . . . . . .Pages 8/13

Do You Hear Voices? (Tentative inquiry into L'Affaire Shaver, or the may-be truth in scientification . .Pages 14/15

Clips and Quips (from the periodicals) . . . . .Pages 16/19a

With our Correspondents (or, why Santa Claus and the postman both acquire merit) . . . . .Pages 20/22

Maybe Something Else - or maybe that's all, except

Addresses and Advertisements
and
Regrets for good stuff left out
and
Our promise for next time, of a fine article by Dr Phillip Haley, Spiritons and Spiroculons in the Light of Psychic Monism

Price of ROUND ROBIN	
5 issues,	$1.00
Year,	$2.50

Your subscription expires with issue No. I-10

ELECTRICAL GHOSTS

by

Vincent H. Gaddis

(We consider ourselves very fortunate in being able to present the following remarkable article by Mr Vincent H.Gaddis, a well-known writer and experienced investigator of psychic problems. We omit our customary editorial page to make room for this highly important material).

Phantom forms produced by electricity in magnetic fields! This amazing phenomenon has been witnessed in several large electrical plants. The General Electric Company's research laboratory at Schenectady, New York, and an industrial research laboratory at Freibourg, Germany, have issued reports on this strange occurrence.

In 1930 Chief Engineer Eastman, of the Rhodes Electrical Society in London, was working on some high-tension wires in a dark room when he saw a luminous blue sphere form about a revolving dynamo. In the center of this sphere a woman's hand suddenly appeared. Eastman asked his assistant, a Mr Woodew, if he could see it, and he replied that he could. Both men watched the phenomenon, and they were able to ascertain every detail of the conditions causing it.

The two men spent four days trying to produce the occurrence again, and when they succeeded a human head instead of a hand appeared. Photographs were taken and they were published in several European journals in the summer of 1930.

A follow-up to the Rhodes observation was an article printed in the Revue Spirite (Paris), written by M.Henri Azam. M.Azam has obtained his material from an experimenter who desired to remain unknown except to the publication's editors. This unknown student was quoted as follows:

> "In the pursuit of my specialized work in the occult and psychic fields I long desired to find out whether it was possible to reconstitute the astral form by means of sound vibrations. It was my belief that mediumistic phenomena, when they are serious in character, are exclusively the result of setting in action some force for which the medium is the condenser. It was my purpose, therefore, to reconstitute a sphere of synchronous vibrations analagous to those which emanate from the human entity, but to do so without the intervention of any medium..."

The following methods were used by the experimenter. Two machines of static electricity were arranged so that the plates would turn in opposite directions. The positions and distance between the plates were so arranged as to be susceptible to infinite variation. As a result there was a variable and sensitive magnetic field formed.

A membrane covered with lycopodium powder was placed at the variable point so that it vibrated according to the electric wave lengths employed. The vibrations were intensified by adding the factors of light, sound, and perfumes. A magic lantern was directed upon the variable point for light effects; an organ was used for sound effects.

> "Under these conditions on several different occasions I was able to obtain the formation of human and animal forms, which appeared in the magnetic field. At first these were only partial, but twice I succeeded in obtaining complete forms. They always presented themselves in the sensitive field and near the variable point. THREE photographic negatives, exceedingly clear and sharply defined, were obtained of these vibrational forms."

The conclusions of the experimenter are that he has been able to obtain responding vibrations of the astral or psychic world; that the results cannot be ascribed to imagination or hallucination; that the forms which appear are not spirits, but empty and discarded etheric or astral bodies or shells; that it is therefore possible to obtain psychic phenomena without the aid of human mediums.

The importance of these observations is obvious. Once again we have apparently found a realm in which the physical and astral worlds merge. Additional research in this domain of phenomena would be physical, and would not require the services of a medium. Nevertheless the ability to form a window or vortex between two vibratory planes might result.

First of all, what are these forms? Are they abandoned etheric bodies or disintegrating thought forms? Etheric bodies, which are regarded as links between the physical and astral bodies, are abandoned soon after physical death, according to the theory, and they slowly disintegrate in a vibratory plane known as the 'astral cemetary' which lies very close to the vibratory limits of our visible physical plane. It is also supposed that these empty etheric bodies remain close to the decaying physical bodies until they are dissolved into their original basic elements. Being held nearby by various subtle affinities, these etheric shells are said to be the cause of reported graveyard phantoms.

If this is true, the best place to set up an experimental electric magnetic field would be in a cemetary vault or in a building close to a cemetary. This is an experiment the writer plans to make when conditions permit. Positive results would indicate that these forms, if successfully obtained, are actually etheric bodies abandoned by progressing astral bodies.

One more thought should be presented; the possibility that natural electric phenomena may provide conditions for psychic phenomena should not be overlooked. There are many reports of phantoms observed during electrical storms. Apparent poltergeist are often displayed during intense electrical atmospheric stress. Ball lightning often exhibits the directions and actions of apparent intelligence. For example, the late Charles F.Talman, government meteorologist, in an article in Readers Digest, June 1935, tells of a ball of lightning entering an open window, travelling about the room as if exploring it,

then finally departing by the window it has entered.

More amazing cases will be found in Flammarion's work, The pranks of Lightning. In all of these occurrences tricks of a poltergeist nature were performed, under conditions indicating the possibility of a directing intelligence. The writer feels certain that in this phenomenon of electrical ghosts we may have a key that will unlock many mysteries of the psychic world.

-------- ---------

We invite our readers to consider, in connection with facts given in the last two paragraphs of Mr Gaddis' article, a communication from Dr. Ryan, on another page of this Bulletin. And Mr Gaddis adds, in a personal letter to the Editor, that "the relationship between storms and psychic observations is a vast field in itself. A neighbor of mine, recently deceased, once told me of seeing a number of phantoms during an electrical storm when he was caught in a local cemetary. They were simply white human-like forms hovering above the graves, glimpsed during flashes of lightning."... We also refer the reader to a quotation by RR, in a previous issue, of an Occult Digest account of battlefield apparitions of of an etheric type. No competent student will assume for a moment, that the multiform phenomena of mediumship are 'explained' by the results detailed by Mr Gaddis; nevertheless, a way may here be opening for a better understanding of some of them, since it is known that etheric bodies and shells sometimes appear in seance rooms, and complicate the problems.... The existence of these entities (if one may call them such) has always been affirmed by psychics and occultists, and if this fact can be verified, or strongly supported by scientific experiment, without recourse to mediumship or clairvoyant perception, a notable step will have been achieved. The effect, of course, is to substantiate occult and spiritistic teachings, and not to negate or supplant them in any way. There are many instances of such data, well verified but almost unknown even to professional students, and it is the chief concern of the Round Robin to disinter them, preserve them and make them available. We bespeak the active cooperation of all readers who understand the importance of such knowledge, which must eventually reconstruct the whole of our basic thinking... We deplore the obscurantism with which the Illuminist must contend on every side - the ignorance of the ignorant and the learned alike, the smugness and intolerance of orthodox religionism, and we recognize as fact and no mere figment of imagination the impact of hostile forces from the Unseen... We live in a time of great danger, yet there is a new-old knowledge stirring in the world which may yet forstall disaster. What little you, and you and I can do, may yet add up to some notable and significant sum.

Field Theory and Survival, by Dr Gardner Murphy.
Plan for Securing Survival Evidence, by Lydia Allison.

(A Review by Attorney William G.Randall, of two articles in the ASPR Journal for October, 1945)

The leading article in this issue of the Journal is a scholarly and carefully reasoned thesis on Field Theory and Survival, by Dr. Gardner Murphy. Dr Murphy points out that among the very early investigators in parapsychology, Mrs Henry Sidgwick took the position that the concept of a fusion of the agent's and percipient's ideas offers a better approach to understanding of paranormal processes than the habitual assumption of transmission from one mind to another. Einstein and Infield have presented a similar view in the Evolution of Physics, showing that the entire classical attempt to work from parts to wholes has broken down in relation to many fundamental problems.

In lieu of the time-honored method, Dr.Murphy proposes to utilize in the search for further evidence of survival, the 'field', accepting the following definition: "Field = a distribution of energy in space and time; this distribution, conceived as a unitary and structural whole, is a field." (Murphy, following Clerk-Maxwell). And Dr Murphy adds, "Knowledge of what one particle alone is doing, added to the knowledge of what another particle is doing, will not in any way predict what will happen in the total interaction.... The structural whole is not the sum of the parts, and the attempt to state its problems in terms of parts confuses the issues..... With the change called death, there is every reason to believe that in so far as psychical operations continue, they" (that is, the field properties of personality) "must, as aspects of larger fields, take on new qualities, new structural relationships."

The contention is presumably, or at least possibly correct; yet it should be considered that the Clerk-Maxwell formula was a concept of the nature of electro-magnetic activity, and that it was worked out wholly on the basis of sidereal space and time. It seems almost a certainty that in the post-mortem environment "space" and "time" do not connote exactly the same conditions of existence that we are accustomed to associate with those terms. (Refer to the Unobstructed Universe, Stewart Edward White, for an extended discussion of these topics).

The succeeding article, Plan for Securing Survival Evidence, by Lydia W.Allison, is in fact a sequel to Dr.Murphy's thesis; and it presents a vivid illustration of the difficulties encountered in the attempt to reduce theory to practise in this field of research. Dr Murphy designed the procedure, as per his letter published as a part of Miss Allison's article; and Miss Allison made a brave attempt to carry it out through the medium, Mrs Leonard, and her well known Control, Feda. In brief, the plan was to make contact, through Feda and the group of entities who have been understood to be cooperating with her in maintaining that channel of communication, with some three or four ex-carnate individuals who had no personal acquaintance during

their terrestial life, but who, after comparing notes in their present sphere of activity, had discovered that they had some common factor of experience which could be reported back, via the medium, and verified through further investigation. (The common experience suggested, that all of these gentlemen during their earthly life should have been smokers of the type of pipe known as a '3-B_Milano' must surely have been offered for purposes of illustration only. To this reviewer it seems to have been of too minor importance as a common factor to sustain, either in the letter or in the spirit, the Clark-Maxwell conception of a 'field' as 'a distribution of energy in space and time, conceived as a unitary and structural whole.' Imagine four respectable residents of California, Arkansas, Maryland, and Maine respectively, who became acquainted after their departure from the plane of physical incarnation, and who discovered that in their earthly life they shared one common experience -- they all wore 'B-V-D's'. Would such a group constitute a 'field'? If so, a field of what?)

Be that as it may, the requested conditions of experiment were blandly ignored by the group of purported collaborators in the psychic environment. These persons were, ostensibly, the surviving intelligences who were known in physical life as Professor J.H.Hyslop, Dr. Arthur Verrall, and Mr.F.W.H.Myers. These men were intimately acquainted during their physical lives, engaged for many years in psychical research, and should have understood as well as any individual now within the scope of human consciousness the importance, for purposes of collaboration, of abiding by proposed conditions of experiment. Apparently, however, no attempt was made to comply with the most important condition - the assembling of a group of communicators who had not been acquainted with each other during earthly life. Instead, these eminent gentlemen offered themselves as the proposed group; and as evidence of identity they presented through 'Feda', a demonstration of one of their number (apparently Dr.Verrall) "moving things about" on a "board like a square, and covered with little squares". Further inquiry among surviving friends of the demonstrators developed the fact (which might have been anticipated) that all of them had been accustomed, from time to time, to play chess, checkers (Anglice, 'draughts'), and / or backgammon. The value of the evidence thus secured seems to be unconsciously summed up in the hopeful suggestion offered by one of the verifying witnesses, that practically all young Englishmen play some or all of these parlor games. It is obvious that this suggestion, if correct, as probably it is, would stultify the evidential value of the reported proceedings.

All that can be said for the experiment is that it was a valiant attempt on the part of Dr.Murphy and Miss Allison to carry their theory into practise; and if the attempt failed - as certainly it did - it was less their fault than that of collaborators in the psychic realm who ignored the stated conditions of collaboration.

W.G.R.

- Ball Lightning - and Elementals -

Dr Charles J.Ryan, writing from the International Headquarters of the Theosophical Society at Covina (Calif.), refers to our remarks about ball lightning in the September issue, and adds some interesting comments. We have permission to quote portions of his letter:

> ..... I have long taken great interest (in this phenomenon) as I believe it will lead to important discoveries in regard to other planes than the physical. I have heard too many reports from 'plain' people with no axes to grind to have any doubts of its existence. Therefore I wish to draw your attention to a report in the Science News Letter for November 18, 1933, where a photograph of ball lightning taken by Professor J.C.Jensen is reproduced. Physics for October 1933 contains further observations by him.
>
> It appears to me that there is some connection between ball lightning and the will-o'-the-wisp, and if it is not too shocking to 'common sense', that the influence of elementals, nature spirits (the Maruts of Hindu philosophy, for instance) is indicated in both cases. Why do the electric balls move quite slowly and show apparent choice of a track through a passage in a house which seems to have nothing to do with metallic conductors? No one seems to have been killed by such unpleasant visitors although they passed close by and sometimes exploded when they got safely out in the open air. In the case of will-o'-the-wisps some very strange behavious is recorded, particularly the frequent slipping away from persons who approach too close for their apparent satisfaction, and the curious revolution of one round another without combining. There are several other characteristics which are common to both kinds of phenomena but which are admittedly not properly explained. We are told that will-o'-the-wisps are nothing but luminous patches of marsh gas, probably methane, rising from decomposed vegetation in wet marshy ground, but there are cases where the mystic flames have been seen in extremely dry territory where there was no water for miles. And why should there be sometimes a smell of phosphorus? Some very curious and well authenticated cases are given in the Scientific American (Supplement) for May,1920, where it is pointed out that no satisfactory or even plausible explanation has been given to cover the known phenomena.(italics ours.Ed.) The same might be said (by scientists) about the brilliant, slow moving globular lights often seen at spiritualistic seances. H.P.Blavatsky, in her Isis Unveiled, I, 106 et seq., in discussing Babinet's 'meteor cat', definitely associates such slow moving examples of ball lightning with elemental activity.

The references given above, to scientific publications, should conclusively dispose of the inane repetition,"no scientist ever saw ball lightning". Also, the argument that "some will-o'-wisps are caused by marsh gas, therefore all similar appearances are caused in the same way" - or else by "radioactive ores" and the like, is of

course mere conjecture; it should not be necessary to contend with such childishness, even when uttered by alleged authority. Neither will any spiritist or occultist assert that all such phenomena are of 'supernormal' origin; nevertheless, the association of lights and luminous appearances with spiritistic manifestations is so well known, that there is good a priori ground for assuming that it may be present here, in some instances. Elemental activity is equally probable at times, and there is an immense amount of occult lore in support of the idea.

The RR Editor at one time described, in the ASPR Journal, a so-called spirit light frequently seen at a place called Malakia, in a remote valley of Southern California. This was a large and very bright 'fire ball', compared by many to the headlight of an automobile, and which seemed to possess a kind of directional ray. It moved about slowly, or else hung motionless for hours over the most inpenetrable thickets of brush and cactus. When, as sometimes happened, it appeared on a road, it was possible to walk directly into the light, whereat it simply disappeared. The region is one of desert, without water or marshland, and expert examination failed to reveal any trace of radioactive elements in the soil. The phenomenon (which is said to have now ceased) was observed at intervals over many years, all accounts are in substantial agreement, and no 'normal' explanation so far suggested is worth anything at all. From his own point of view, the Editor ranks this as a spirit or elemental manifestation, so far as the facts go, and in the absence of any intelligible alternative. One must either neglect such happenings, or adopt the best working hypothesis available- and any well informed occultist could collect a book-full of data on similar occurrences. But in such cases the burden of proof does not lie with the occultist, but on those who advance glib and pseudo-scientific 'explanations' for which there is no ascertainable ground whatever.

Hazlitt's Meditation: "... Before getting out of bed he lay an hour agaze at a wafer, big as a three-penny-bit, stuck on his ceiling, tears leaking from his fixed lids, and he had grown now to be greater than he that taketh a city, when with tears in his ears he lay dead to their tickling, unthinking, unwinking, the nail of his attention fixed in the wafer, 'seeing it steadily, seeing it whole', a citizen of the Kingdom of Nothingness, having a happy home in it, moving on and on and still immutably on, smoothly as the motion of a stone moving in a void without bottom or bound, in which there is nothing but a stone that journeys, and eternity is the journey of its inertia; until, having attained to carelessness and continuousness, living yet free of fret, stark as Death's rapture, he passes into the harbour of Nirvana, and far back of veil on veil is safe within a place of darkness, built of the absolute attar of Space and Persistence, wherein He stares who is careless and continuous ever, and His years shall know no end; in the ark of which darkness, to whose largeness the arch of heaven is as a shell, he abides a while entranced, imbibing wine of the sacrament of Romance, experiencing that, if a man ceases and is still, then the spirit of Being rushed-in to fill his vacant chambers, and the man passes through the passion of the taste of bliss.."

(M.P.Shiel. How the Old Woman Got Home, p. 271 f.)

A TWICE-TOLD TALE

or

MOSSES FROM AN OLD HANT

--o--

We have called this a twice-told tale, because it is the kind of thing which happens all too often to psychic research investigators. We can't tell you the name of the 'hant', though his identity is well established and he is a familiar historical character, for reasons which will appear. These same reasons prevent our giving you the names of the persons concerned; we can only ask you to take our word for it, that they are people much above average in education and culture, sane and responsible, and not spiritualists or occultists - at least prior to these recent happenings. For a while we figured on having a book-full of the finest kind of evidential material, with affidavits to cover every word of it if necessary, but this-n-that happened, and now we're reduced to this unsupported might-have-been notation. Oh, well! . . . . . .

It all began with a ouija board - Mrs Ault, Mrs Bolt, Mrs Cook (we'll call them) passing an idle hour with it, in a sunny patio. A first experiment for all of them. Idle hands, unbusy with the besom, and the devil or Something right there to make use of them. For all at once the O.B. began to give intelligible messages; an aunt, or great-aunt, apparently, and well informed about things both past and future. Then suddenly (we leave out 99% of the story) here comes the swashbuckling Revenant in Chief.

His cue had been his Call-name - G O L D. Mrs Ault, jestingly, apropos of something on the ouija board, had said, "Oh, tell us where to find a pot of gold." One moral of this is, be careful and careful what you say over astral walkie-talkies. Careful what bells you ring in the Abyss! For here was Captain G O L D (we'll call him that), earth-bound and gold-bound a century and a half by his own admission, but no chattering graveyard wraith or seance-room tumbler, but courtly, plausible, treacherous, skilful as Iago, an artist, a thief, a murderer, a seducer, a rapist, a gold-enslaved man . . . We know a good deal about him, because for two months he ran things with a high hand.

"Read-such-and-such a book," wrote Captain G O L D - giving title and pages, "and you'll find out about me." And the reference is right, though none of the participants had ever seen the book previously. "Put that ouija away - burn it - too many evil influences can come through that thing (!)." And when one woman holds the pencil lightly and another touches its upper end with a finger, it begins to write furiously. So, Mrs Ault wants a pot of gold, does she? Well, the Captain is eager to oblige. There is a fearsome cliff overhanging the sea, and in this cliff a cavern and in the cavern - chests of treasure.

And what a treasure it is! Chests with the Crown Jewels, with pieces of eight, with diamonds, pearls, emeralds, rubies, sapphires, massy chains and ornaments, loot of ships and plundered cities and murdered travellers. And these chests, filled, weigh a ton apiece, and are encrusted with precious stones. Loot of Golconda, the mines of Solomon, the groves of Hesperides is no richer than this trove - if trove it should become.

Does all this sound like a fairy tale for children? But read further. The height of this cliff, its precise location, the elevation of the cave above the water line, the coloring and configuration of the rock, are all given correctly and precisely. And the husbands of these women, Mr A, Mr B, and Mr C., are told just where on a certain 'Point' to set the transit, and that a rise of land will intervene, and

A TWICE-TOLD TALE (contd:)

that part of the Point has been levelled and set to lawn in the course of years. All these details, and others we must omit, are exactly verified by inspection - yet none of the participants had visited this place. Captain G O L D even makes extra trips himself, comes back and corrects certain measurements.

We pause to invite the explanations of sceptics. Our notion is, Captain G O L D was just as real, just as much alive and here, as either you or I.

That doesn't mean that the treasure was there, or that the Captain was not a super-liar. But such a meticulous liar - such pains as he took, to make all things truthful en route, to his lie par excellence!

(We don't mean, either, that the treasure isn't there. But we don't believe in it and we are not going to investigate).

We forgot to say, the Captain's willingness to turn over all this loot, was contingent on the promise, to spend it all for charity - to the end that gold might undo G O L D ' S bad deeds, and release him from the toils and fascination of it.

This cavern, however, is almost inaccessible; moreover, it is guarded by the Spirits of three Dead men.

As to access, Captain G O L D is fertile in plans, proposes a boat, two boats, cables, tackle, much other equipment. Incidentally he draws maps (women holding the pencil), also does them in oils, in colors, excellent in execution, faithful and correct as to actual details of the locality. When the approach by sea is thought too difficult, the Captain has a new idea. He wants a cable or rope ladder swung down from above, over the over-hang, maybe 200 feet, then everybody is to go down the ladder to the cave. Everybody, he insists. Three men and three women. All or none. That's necessary, too, if entrance is from the sea instead of the cliff, and they must enter in a certain order, and keep a light going at all times, without fail. He suggests that if his exact instructions are followed, a psychic field will be set up by means of which he can be of assistance; moreover, it will fend off the malignancy of the Guardians.

(Occultists will understand this 'Guardian' business; it's no novelty and no delusion, though as a rule we don't dare say that where our P.R. brethren can hear us)

To do justice to all this, we should have to write as many paragraphs as we have words, maybe more. The Captain produced literally reams of writing, a profusion of Maps and Diagrams, schemes, plans, projects, instructions, changes in instructions, whims and petulances, went into rages, became wheedling and submissive, then broke out in a new place. But always quite in character - once his character type was grasped. Always factually correct, so far as could be checked. To complement this personality build-up, it is soon found that this is distinctly not his first appearance. Mrs Ault has been reading up on Captain G.

"He's been seen quite often," says Mrs A, interestedly, "He's scared the pants off a number of people."

(A prophetic remark re pantalettes also, or their contemporary equivalents - if any.)

Instead of going straight ahead with this story, to an appalling adventure in a haunted cave, we shall have to loop back and take up another side of the affair. Then we shall understand why there was no adventure in the cave for us to be appalled by. Of course, the whole plan for recovering the treasure, though circumstantial and plausible and accurate on verifiable facts, also called for an engineering feat of considerable risk and difficulty. This meant delay, difficulty, and expense. Besides,

A TWICE-TOLD TALE (contd.)

the place is a death trap, and these three couples, though young and adventurous, are nobody's fools - not even Captain G O L D ' S. So the discussion went on, night after night. And also, all this time, there was unfolding

THE PSYCHISM OF DERRY A.

This Derry is a 12-year old boy, son of the 'Ault' couple, in the Junior High School, I.Q. of 130, a very fine youngster with normal interest in sports and mechanics, normally well behaved but also a great puzzlement to his teachers. The chief reason, apart from the 130, is that the boy is a natural psychic, medium, clairvoyant, psychometrist, psychic sensitive - if ever there was one. One of these rare gifts of the Gods to humanity, IF we only had sense enough to appreciate and cultivate such powers. So, he lived in a world of his own which he couldn't talk about outside the family, and which sometimes intruded on his earth-plane business as well. No use trying to make this clear to teachers, doctors, psychiatrists, educators - that would be the supreme and fatal error. So - and so . . .

This paragraph has to do for chapters Nine and Ten of the book that should have been written about The Return of Captain G O L D.

The important point is, that Derry's mother, Mrs A. (who ought to know better and does), one day asked Derry to hold the pencil while Captain G indited some gem of wisdom. And that, of course, was Captain G O L D ' S golden chance. Figuratively and literally, he embraced Derry like a long-lost brother.

We should interject here, that Captain G alleged a whole list of relationships existing in a past life. Mrs A had been his mother, Mrs B his mistress, Mrs C a great beauty much beloved by him. Later he said he was mistaken, that Mrs B had been an officer under his command. The important matter, from an analyst's point of view, is that by an odd chance, two of these women were more or less psychic, the third was a natural Medium, and the three men, though ignorant of spiritism, were tolerant and interested. Add the psychic sensitivity of the boy Derry, and the set-up for res clandestinae was near perfect. None of them, we repeat, knew anything about psychic matters, with a partial exception in the case of Mrs A. She had considerable grounding in general occult theory, had practised meditation, but had never attended a seance or made contact with any excarnate personality. We can undrestand how this ignorance, combined with receptivity, made the way all the easier for Captain G.

The Captain made himself comfortable around the 'Ault' home, and Derry could see him. Some of Derry's playmates saw him too. We have elaborate descriptions of the Captain's costume, correct for his period, of his airs and graces and fine caballero manners. Moreover, this brigand of the haute monde had all his old gang around him, including a demented and thoroughly murderous relative. Not that this riff-raff of the astral invaded the house to any great extent - but it was only a little while until Derry was spending his nights among them.

The key to this situation was, that Derry at first went gladly on such adventures. Captain G fascinated him with smooth words, fine manners and strange sights. This took place in sleep or semi-trance; and the boy remembered everything and described everything with a vocabulary far beyond his years. Or else, he functioned on both planes, described what he was seeing at the time, acted out scene after scene. Captain G O L D took him to the opera; the play, the costumes, the spectators, would fill several pages, and run true historically. But there were dreadful scenes also, drinking brawls that ran to murder and rape, and even the duel in which Captain G O L D

A TWICE-TOLD TALE (contd.)

met his death. What was Derry actually seeing? His past life, as a youth in Captain G's company? Akashic or etheric records? Thought forms from G O L D ' S memory? They lacked no whit of reality to the boy. Once, for a long hour, he brandished a carving knife, threatening and defending, and at the same time, dimly conscious on this plane also, kept warning his mother to keep away from him, or she 'might get hurt'. These astral experiences of Derry A, night after night, a month to six weeks of them, would run to a hundred pages . . . But as a result, the boy's school work is wrecked, his health suffers, the school authorities are concerned, begin talking about mental tests and psychiatrists (!!) . . . .

Around the Ault home various small phenomena occur, sounds and movements of furniture. The pressure of finger tips slides the piano or lifts a heavy chair. The bathroom door becomes locked and Captain G is appealed to, to get inside and open it. He (something, someone) beats on the door, shakes it, but cannot unlock it. Then there is a determined attempt to obsess or possess Mr A. He's a husky man, engineer, college bred, hardly the 'susceptible type', but he has an hour-long struggle at midnight with Something that wants to take his earthly house away from him. Derry is beginning to get angry and frightened - and so is everyone else.

The RR editor is invited to take a hand in the matter, and cautiously extends one finger. There is a council of war, and it is decided to shut out Captain G O L D and his confreres at every entrance. Easier said than done, however, and Captain G says he will 'never' go away. Still, there are certain things which can be done and Mrs A puts them into effect. The real problem is to protect Derry during his sleep. All day long, now, he is conscious of a drag and a pull at his solar plexus. This is, in our opinion, the psychic chord built up by the obsessing entity.

There is an operation called the Operation of Substitution, known to occultists, for dealing with this. There are also means for protecting the body during sleep. Psychic research students usually know about these, but consider them outside the sphere of scientific studies and very likely mumbo-jumbo. We do not detail them here, for many RR readers may share that opinion. What we do share with all of you, is the fact that mumbo-jumbo worked. We attribute the health, sanity, perhaps the life of Derry A to mumbo-jumbo.

We are sure there are millions of smart, sane, practical people who know exactly 'what they would do with a boy like that'. We may thank heaven that the parents of this Derry were smart people in a very different way. We know what religionists, psychiatrists, school authorities, policemen, judges of Juvenile Courts would do - and thank whatever Gods may be that Derry was saved from their wisdom. We point out that for people involved in such events, there is no help to be had anywhere in the midst of all our boasted 20th century learning. Or if there are people who can help, how does one find them and who believes in them?

This is a serious and bitter indictment, and we do not exempt the spiritualists from it - that is, the rank and file of them. They do not have much trouble themselves. Their circles are well protected on the 'other side', and they have a justified though somewhat naive confidence in their prayers, their aspirations, and their Guides. This is exactly analogous to our habitual confidence in policemen and firemen. In minor emergencies, sometimes in more serious ones, they give us adequate protection. When the superior powers of destruction are loosed, they are as helpless as ourselves. Men like Wickland, a professional exorcist, may be exempted from our criticism. But the operative occultist who has had to clear an adversary from his

A TWICE-TOLD TALE (contd.)

own path knows that salvation lies in knowledge and skill and initiative. Accused of dreams and hallucinations, he is actually almost the only realist among the sons of men.

To return now to our subject for a final comment. This marvelous psychism of Derry A. (of which we have given no adequate idea) developed pari passu with the pursuit of the fabulous treasure. The 'Ault' home was, for some two months, the center of a veritable vortex of psychic or astral forces. Many personalities, unmentioned in this account, gathered round, tried by every means to beat their way through into manifestation. As the true nature of Captain G O L D and his associates began to appear, belief in his Golconda waned correspondingly. The night came when a child seemed to communicate - "The gold's a coax, coax, coax . . ." Put H for C and the sense is plain. For all that, it might have been well, for occult reasons, to brave the guardians, if the cavern itself had been half-way accessible - but not at the serious risk of the lives of everyone.

This cavern, by the way, is in no remote and isolated spot, but within the limits of a popular resort. Hence Captain G. insisted at every turn on the need for secrecy, disguise, and craftiness. There is also a secondary, minor treasure theme mixed up in this, and many personalities are unnamed.

This struggle and turn of events explains why the 'pot of gold' is still unsought for, but does not quite make plain why we cannot present, in a hundred (or 2-300 pages) instead of four or five, material of so important a nature. Important, because there is as much and as good evidence here, for the existence of the discarnate Captain G O L D, as there is for your neighbor -John Smith- lacking only his easy visibility. Because all fumbling-mumbling about telepathy, delusions, subconscious prankings, trickery and the like, breaks down at every attempt to apply it. We can't make the case for this, because we can't give the whole story - but it is cases like this which fill us with contempt for all pussyfooters, dream-mongers and fact-dodgers - for people who cannot or will not realize that the burden of proof us on whoever says, 'No, that is not John Jones; that is a subliminal projection, personification, personalization, hallucination, hypnosis - anything, in fact, except J.J. himself.' Our own conviction asserts the objective existence of John Jones and Captain G O L D as fully formed personalities, and until some one offers an alternative theory at least half as reasonable, we hold our flat feet firm on solid ground.

Lastly then, we do not and cannot tell the whole story for the following reason. Of the three women, Mrs C was by far the most mediumistic. She was absent during many of these happenings, but returned when the worst was over, and when the project of making a complete record was being considered. Immediately, another entity, a Being of great power and speaking as with high authority, communicated with the group, and the gist of his words was this: that Captain G O L D and all his cronies were evil and earth-bound, a center and focus of evil energies, and that they drew their life forces from the here-living, especially from all who gave them any measure of attention in their thoughts. 'You will do as you please' said this Communicator, 'but the right thing, the Christ-like thing to do, is to wipe the slate clean, put all thought of G O L D and his fellows from you forever, above all say nothing, write nothing to sustain this evil life, or to draw the attention of any other earth person to its existence. Thus it will the sooner wither and die away . . . .'

We did not hear this communicator, but his effect on the group was overwhelming; not one of them seems to have thought of disregarding his advice. It is because of this that we have concealed, in this article, all places and identities, and can give

A TWICE-TOLD TALE (contd.)

only our unsupported word for genuineness and truth. It may be that even so, we have incurred the grave displeasure of our friends. We could point out that there are other points of view, and that the factual verification of occult concepts is of great importance, and that the suppression of case histories of this type may work more harm than the good it is said to serve. But no one, of course, can prove such contentions pro or contra.

Interference of this sort, for good or doubtful motives, is all too common in psychical studies. It is one reason for our ignorance, but for all we know it may serve far higher purposes than our difficult instruction.

* * *

E A R T H ~ B O U N D

Soul whirled with young body
In a frolic so gay
It grew forgetful of
Its heavenly yesterday,
Its natural solemn music,
So giddy was the play.

Then body grew a-weary
And leaned to soul in tears;
But soul was dreaming over
The folly of young years,
It had nothing but ancient folly
To soothe its lover's fears.

When body lay in stillness
The soul could not recall
The aery solemn being
It had before its fall,
It was tangled in old folly;
The earth had it in thrall . . .

R.I.E. (from Irish Statesman

WANTED: Copies of ROUND ROBIN, Nos 2, 3 & 5. Will pay $1.00 each.
Address:
V. H. Gaddis, Box 296, WINONA LAKE, Indiana.

DO YOU HEAR VOICES?

Based on the formula used by advertising companies to determine the number of prospective customers,---------- your Editor would judge that there are 1,800,000 in this country who know that they hear voices, and most of the rest hear them and call it their subconscious . . . by the same formula about 500,000 believe they have a mission to perform . . . some 100,000 have unlearned knowledge of a highly technical nature in their minds . . . Experts will point out that the ad. formula, used in this way, is silly; we reply, scale it down to ten percent and it's still amazing . . ."

Thus writes the editor of a national scientification magazine. Now, we are not going to stick out our own neck (in the vernacular, and however scrawny it may be) on the so-called Shaver mystery. The fact that this whole stirabout originated with a scientification publication, which continues to commercialize it with no unskilled hand, gives it a black eye from the start. Fact, fiction and dream are inextricably mingled, and it is safe to say that no scientific society or periodical will give the matter any attention whatever, as it now stands.

We remind our learned brethren, however, that facts exist and forces operate before they are officially approved of, and quite independently of scientific pronouncements. Some of the most important facts known to mankind are disregarded or flatly denied by official science - by which we mean, learned bodies, publications, institutions and university departments. If we wait for official sanction before we examine phenomena, we shall make a late start, or none at all.

The disturbing feature of this business is not the Shaver fiction, but the correspondence it has evoked, the intense sincerity of many of the writers, and the constant repetition of certain elements. We mean, for example, that if a score or a hundred people assert that they have seen, in dream or vision, an identical but unknown gadget (or building or landscape or anything else of new and distinctive appearance), it is something to think about. Especially if you accept, as all informed people now do, the existence of extra-sensory or extended sensory perception, and of extra-sensory existents.

These visual appearances, dreams, and voices, all smack to us of lower astral contacts, clairaudience and clairvoyance. We wait with interest the appearance of the first bit of objective evidence - dero-inhabited cavern, a buried plate or significant inscription. We want to know if Mr. Shaver's own account of his imprisonment and escape have been verified. We want a voice-making or ray-casting machine actually seen by dependable witnesses.

The existence of enormous caverns in many parts of the world is a known fact. It is highly probable that not a thousandth part of the existing caverns are known, or even surmised. We are not such a fool as to deny a priori that they may have inhabitants, possibly of a very unpleasant or even dangerous sort. It would be equally foolish to go further than this, with such data as we now have available.

The editor of this A.S. magazine has been deluged with books, articles, letters, formidable scientific arguments, endless data (real or alleged). Our personal correspondence with him, plus reports from persons who know him, convince us that he is personally 'sold' on the 'Mystery'. We mean, he is profoundly convinced something very strange, and likely very dangerous is going on. Particularly about the voices, It appears that literally thousands of people are hearing them, have heard them for years past, on occasion or even habitually. The Shaver conviction, hallucination, or fiction-inventing is, that these originate from age-old mechanisms, invented by the ancients, now operated by the degenerate Deros in underground caverns. The A.S.editor cannot (in print at any rate) decide whether this is some kind of clairvoyance from the astral levels, or Dero deeds of derring-do. He's determined to find out.

DO YOU HEAR VOICES? (contd.)

His life is threatened frequently - and so is that of other would-be investigators.

We suggest that one real danger is, some of our professional and official brothers - we mean, doctors, lawyers, psychologists, psychiatrists, alienists, psychoanalysts, all kith and kin of them - will get their claws on these clairaudient folk, shut them all up as Filberts of a most dangerous variety. They have actually been doing that, for years past. We don't know a single one of these gentry to whom we would dare say that we hear voices (if we did); and yet clairaudience is wide-spread, old as the race, and a God-like faculty which we have prostituted or denied.

Whatever Round Robin readers think of this stuff, the fact remains that there's considerable excitement, some genuine alarm, a great number of people openly asserting clairaudient powers - and a good many of them are apparently people of education, culture, scientific training. The nitwits, hoaxers and smart-alecks are there too, of course and as always. We give the matter this extended notice because we have known many clairaudients, and because we have been balefully predicting, for years past, sporadic outbursts of various forms of psychism.

At the same time, we're not going to deny the Deros, or some unspeakable equivalents of them, taking our cue from Huxley, who said he was toomuch of a sceptic to deny anything. Impossible things happen and incredible things come true, and there's a long and rather frightening casualty list among snoopers. We really think, for a book-full of reasons that can't be summarized, that, some devilment is brewing, tho we're not quite sure whether it's Dero's doings or a tidal wave or a wave of book agents. And the more alarmed we are, the more flippant our language . . . The most amazing thing of all, to us, is that there actually are people who believe we live in a sane, orderly, rational and predictable world.

* * * *

"The war has powerfully changed the psychological atmosphere . . . The day is at hand when we shall turn from the childlike amusements and excitements of physical science to the unimaginable adventures of super-physical discovery; and in that day we shall not only flash messages to the stars, but hold communion with our dead."

- - - Harold Begbie

"It is not the imaginative only, or the ignorant, or the unhealthy, or the timid and nervous, who report these abnormal experiences. If only school girls, or poets like Shelley (a small class), or uneducated persons, or cowards or fools come forward with their tales, we might contemptuously reject them. But the witnesses are very often honorable men, honorable women, brave, sane, healthy, not fanciful, not in a state of 'expectancy' (which in fact is usually fatal to ghost seeing) and these persons have nothing to gain and some consideration to lose by reporting their experiences."

- - - Andrew Lang

CLIPS AND QUIPS

Albert Payson Terhune, says his widow, is continuing his literary work from beyond the grave, and has already dictated three books, expects to keep going indefinitely. Mrs Terhune 'hears' him in his 'natural voice' but apparently by clairaudience, thought it was hallucination at first. First of the new books wasto appear in October. It should be noted that Mrs Terhune is a skilful writer, author of four books. (Los Angeles Times)

A dowser rises up against sceptics, in the Springfield Republican He didn't believe it either, until the hazel stick began acting up in his own hands, after that he had a happy time detecting water pipes, sewers, and drains. Even a sceptical State forester couldn't hold the thing, but he found that a rubber mat under foot stopped all manifestations. This last point is new to us. (Item from Mrs HL)

Latest translator of Nostradamus, one Henry C. Roberts, New York book dealer, says "I'm scared silly, I'd take off like a fan-tail if I knew where to hide." It's an alleged prediction of civil war, with atom bombs on New York in 1949, that's worrying him - "things too terrible for any one man to know. Roberts claims to have predicted the date of the war's end, and of D-day in Europe, says he has affidavits to prove it. He's publishing the book himself, and if this is advance publicity it won't do him much good. (San Diego Union)

The New York Spiritualist Leader for Dec. 9 has an account of what seems to be a new or very unusual form of mediumship. The medium seems to 'block out' and the observers see various scenes, landscapes, buildings, scores of faces, 'neon-like letters' - a kind of crystal ball effect. At least, so says the Leader, which is not too critical in its acceptances, but nevertheless campaigns against fraud and carries many items of interest. It's worth taking if you take a little salt at the same time.

National Spiritualist, always well edited, has a useful article on "The Spirit's Own Bereavement". All of us put on garments of sorrow for a little while, sometimes for all our lives thereafter, when we lose some one near and dear to us. But the 'departed' one himself, standing there beside us, is in worse case, sees and hears everything but cannot make himself seen or heard, tries desperately to reach us and reaps frustration only. Even genuine sorrow is selfishness, and wilful ignorance is cruelty. Some time, perhaps, we will learn that death is a fine new birthday, and stop doing our best to spoil it for the newly liberated soul.

The October Bulletin of the Association for Research and Enlightenment (Cayce Foundation) is concerned largely with Atlantis, atomic energy, Atlantean science. These remarkable clairvoyant readings have always dealt with Atlantis in a most casual and factual manner, and insist that "there are great numbers of Atlanteans in the earth at present." A 1932 reading mentioned the use of Uranium for releasing power (in Atlantis); other readings give a picture of Atlantean science far surpassing our own in achievement. Our notion is, that no intelligent, well informed person, no matter how critical and sceptical he may be, can afford to neglect the study of the Cayce clairvoyance, or

of psychic and spiritistic phenomena generally, not as a religion but as part of one's cultural equipment - and quite possibly the most important part. "The next chapter in the history of European civilization" wrote the historian Egon Friedell, "will be the history of the Light from the Other Side."... The whole business of man, says Merrill-Wolff, is to awaken from his hypnotic slumber. It seems to us that this light and this awakening, or the sharp necessity for it, draw very close upon us. Yet not official science, nor contemporary philosophy, nor the intellectual culture of our time, nor the masses of humanity are prepared for such awakening. We walk the tight-rope above the Abyss - et sauve qui peut!

"Unless there is religious apprehension," said Reinhold Neibuhr recently, "we hasten our own destruction.... Ruin follows the exaltation of nations... Justice turns into vengeance if the judge does not apply his laws with fear and trembling."

The Theosophical Forum for December reviews "The Philosophy of Bertrand Russell", a new book, some 750 pages of exposition and criticism, and including an autobiography. Russell, one of the most formidable intellects of ourtime, is a man who has examined all philosophies and found all lacking. "My intellect goes with the Humanists, though my emotions violently rebel" A full life "must serve some end which is impersonal and above mankind", but this end Russell has not found.

The Forum also has several other short articles, and eight or ten well-written book reviews, of books of interest and importance.... The new Leader of the Theosophical Society, chosen to succeed Dr.G.de Purucker, is Colonel Arthur L. Conger, President of the American Section for the past six years.

Owen W.Washburn, writing in Chimes for December, makes points worth repeating and not often mentioned. (1) There are many spiritualists among wealthy and influential people, but they do not cooperate by these means (2) One reason is, they believe there are no spiritualists who are competent to handle large endowments (3) Also, spiritualists are contunually getting involved with other issues and subjects, astrology, numerology, reincarnation and the like - any of which may be offensive to the prospective donor (4) Foolish and extravagant claims by psychics and mediums, and inefficient Church management, and quarrels and mutual accusations of fraud, certainly do not attract the interest of practical persons with money to spend. (5) In addition, a certain social stigma still attaches to spiritualism, and many people do not want to risk this, nor do professional men care to lose clients and patients. All of these comments, in our opinion, are entirely justified. We might add that if spiritualists would cooperate willingly with psychic research activities, and if PR workers would try to learn A,B AB about the conditions of psychic phenomena, the whole subject would fast acquire a definite scientific status and begin to make some real progress.

"Sane occultism is what our world needs" says the distinguished author Shaw Desmond, in Occult Review for October. "The study of the occult is essential to all education, and should be in the curriculum of all schools. Children should be taught" about the existence of the invisible worlds, the etheric and astral planes, and the influence of occult forces on human life. The dangers of the occult should be

explained also, to everyone who is mature enough to receive such knowledge. 'I have myself fought life and death encounters with demoniacal poltergeists.... the man who denies the reality of such encounters is either a fool or a knave.' Finally, the author adds a few don'ts 'for the budding occultist.' Don't rush in where angels fear to tread, without full and gradual preparation. Don't pierce the veil without prayer and spiritual preparation, cleanlines of both mind and body. And don't talk about diabolism to small children, but make sure that they learn the necessary facts as they grow older..... "I have definitely, many times, seen apports dropped from the air, sometimes in strong light, and varying from a serpent of two and a half feet to a beautifully carved silver hawk, and to diamonds and other precious stones whixh I still possess."

Other titles in the Occult Review are: Acosmic Mystery - Rudolf Steiner - Experiences of Ultra-Perception - The Dream Mechanism - The Way Ahead - The Teachers and the Taught - Occult Factors in Mental Conflicts - The Magnum Opus - Book Reviews.... The I.Q. of this publication is much above the average in the occult field.

Fortean Doubt, which froths at the mouth whenever official scientism comes to the fore, leads off in a shower of sparks, re the atom bomb. "The crime is the effort, through shock and awe, to paralyze mass mentality." The 'Powers' of government, of capital, and of official sceince are in a kind of conspiracy to set up a dictatorship over all our thinking processes, on any and all subjects... The Fortean always appears to be going off the deep end on such subjects, but maybe that's the only way to get certain ideas across - and it is undeniably an idea-full magazine...'It is known to many that wires have not been necessary for the transmission of messages, light or power for the past fifteen years...we live at the level decreed by our betters...Fat Boys in high places' who are afraid of what will happen to them in a world of plenty for the multitude.

"History is the accepted lie. There are no final truths; there are even no final facts. There are simply things that appear to be true under certain rigidly controlled conditions, and usually some important condition has escaped control. There are only hypotheses, theories, fictions, and conventional lies..." (Swann Harding, quoted in Doubt).

Dr.Rhine's position. This is summed up, from one angle, by his article Parapsychology and Religion, reprinted by MIND DIGEST for November. Telepathy is a completely established scientific fact. Pre-cognition, which is ESP applied to the future (or prophecy) is a reality; it exists to a demonstrable degree. PK effects (the power of the mind to affect objects, as in the throwing of dice) have been proven to exist, and the force exerted is of a non-physical order. All these facts, however, do not prove that mind or personality can exist apart from the body. A great deal of 'survival evidence' can be explained by ESP and the PK effect; the real question is, how much? The unexplored territory now opening up is of enormous extent - but this is one kind of scientific research which has a net guidance value to human conduct and happiness - whether its finding coincide with current religious views, or not.

The foreboding spirit of Doubt, mentioned above, finds sympathetic response in articles by R.H.Naylor, in Prediction for December. " A new hierarchy of military science may arise and control the world. That possibility is one side issue of coming world control by the scientific hierarchy"... Universal labor serfdom in underground cities is seen as inevitable result of atom-weapons, as things now stand... "It should be obvious to all who have eyes to see, that we are reaching the end of an age....labyrinthine excavations, fulfilling the astrological predictions... the economic system is out of date by a couple of milleniums..."

This issue also carries Rudolf Steiner (by Eileen Bird), The Clock in Your Head (T.S.Douglas), Psychic Evidence of Life after Death (Arthur Lansley), Our Thought Barrage (Arthur Prince), Psychology Confirms Occultism (comment on Adler by Rathmell Wilson), an Occult Case Book (Frank Lind). Some of this is very competent writing, and there are also sections devoted to palmistry, numerology, graphology, dreams and the like, for those whose interests run to such matters.

Radio-Perception is the Journal of the British Society of Dowsers, the object of which is (a) to encourage the study of all matters connected with the study of radiation by the human organism, with or without an instrument (b) To spread information about the use of dowsing for geophysical, medical, agricultural and other purposes (c) To keep a register of dowsers for water, minerals, oil and other purposes. The list of members covers 12 closely printed pages, but the names classified under United States number only 11. We note some distinguished names, and many with honors and degrees among the membership. The Journal is a scientific, semi-technical publication, and just as much in the field of parapsychology (and as much or as little 'occult') as are Dr.Rhine's experiments in telepathy and PK effects.

There's a new world of psycho-physico-biological studies opening up, with a host of obscure phenomena, obviously interrelated. We call this magazine to the attention of readers interested in radiesthesia, radiation physics, psycho-kinetics, ESP phenomena, auric emanations, magnetic fields, weather prediction, psychometry and so forth, fifth and sixth, not excluding our own pet problem of 'Vitic'; add vitality globules and 'prana' for good measure - and pendulum diagnosis also. Productive leads are found everywhere; the problem is discrimination, to read widely and yet specialize effectively.

(Radio-Perception is published quarterly, at York House, Portugal St. W.C.2, London. 5/0 or $1.00 per yr.)

Re Vitamine exploiters, we note with satisfaction a book by Prof. Dr.W.Stepp, Dr Kuhnau, and Dr.H.Schroeder, called Vitamines and Their Clinical Applications, in which the authors point out the dangers of vitamine excess, and of the popular notion that the more vitamines the better. It should be more generally known, that various vitamines possess opposite principles, and if taken at the same time often neutralize each other. A and C, for example, cancel each other, and the toxic action of B complex is abolished by taking D... A pathetic case was that of Mr L.D., who 'itched and tickled all over' twenty minutes after taking a drink of whisky. The trouble here was surplus vitamine E, and there was no anti-vitamine, but vegetable charcoal did the trick nicely... Well, if liquor gives you the tickles, and you must have it, you now know what to do about it.

" It couldn't happen but it did." So says Lieut.Commander Robert Esson Rew, Jr., in his article Typhoon Off Okinawa, in Reader's Digest for January '46. The rudder engine was jammed and flooded, the gear teeth blocked with floating wood and other debris. The executive officer, workingwith it, declared it could not and did not move. Later examination confirmed the fact that it was physically impossible to move the rudder by turning the wheel on the bridge. Yet during a two-day typhoon of unprecedented violence the bridge wheel kept the port bow to a shifting gale, brought the ship clear of Okinawa and to final safety. "None of us has been able to offer a rational explanation. There just isn't any!' It's incomprehensible - makes the chills go up and down the back of my neck." What did Commander Rew have to do with it? "I hung on to a stanchion and prayed" - and kept the wheel manned.

------- -------

"Let us make no mistake" writes the Editor of Sunflower "The signs of the times are portent with indications that war against the religious liberty of spiritualists is on. It threatens in practically every state legislature... The opposition is on the march... Admit such opposition against one religion and the door has been opened for persecution of one sect by any other sect, until the whole nation would be embroiled in religious strife." Unfortunately, there is more good reason for these forebodings than sane and intelligent people like to believe. (Sunflower is published at 15 North Maryland Ave.,Atlantic City, N.J. Israel Shotz, Editor. Bi-monthly, 2 yrs for $1.00. Has a Bookfinder service).

-------- -------

THERE IS A RIVER, The Story of Edgar Cayce, by Thomas Sugrue, 453 pp. Revised Edition. Henry Holt & Co. $3.00.
This is the story of one of America's greatest seers and of a career interwoven with the lives of thousands of our people. It should be read for its inherent interest, and carefully considered by all students of esoteric subjects. Order from Edgar Cayce Publishing Co. Virginia Beach, Virginia. Publication free on request).

-------- -------

Realism is the acceptation of the world of significant facts. But what kind of facts are significant? Only aspirations, desires, ideals, and dreams, since these alone are generative of all things. The true realist is therefore the dreamer, who is no longer enslaved by the fictions of false values.

--------- --------

The symbolism of trifling things. One notes with mordant interest that the fad of post-war America is bubble blowing. Sheen of colors, evanescent nothingness, the play of young children! Bubbles do not last long, but then, if they did, few people would care anything about them.

- With Our Correspondents -

Mrs HMG (New M.) has been reading Governor Osborn's The Earth Upsets. "It's a must if you're interested in shifts of the earth's axis. He also lists all the known earthquakes, from ancient times on down. I was specially interested in a terrible one in Argentina, preceded by a waterspout that came on a clear day without warning.... There was one of the Duponts, a woman, who bound photographic plates to her head and got the most amazing pictures.....According to a Cayce bulletin from Virginia Beach, about a year ago, on a specified date only 13 males were born in the United States..."

(Most PR students are familiar with thought photographs, secured by Fukurai and other experimenters. Bind the plate on forehead or top of head, or hold between palms; either visualize something or keep the mind 'blank' as you prefer. Experiment as to time required, may be five minutes or several hours. Develop very carefully and see what you get. It's a fine field for amateur work..... Thoe orthodox scientific dictum (formerly, anyhow), that there's no connection between earthquakes and meteorological phenomena, is contradicted by an immense amount of data. Read Fury in the Earth some time, for a remarkable picture of the missouri quakes of 1811 and accompanying lights, winds and storms (Harry H.Kroll, Bobbs-Merrill Co.)... Mrs HMG also suggests the Cayce statement could be checked by birth statistics, which sounds feasible).

Author VHG (Ind.) refers to Research, by A.R.Martin, reviewed elsewhere in this bulletin. Mrs HL (Mass.) makes inquiry about this same book, and also calls attention to South of the Sahara, by the explorer Attilio Gatti, which contains some good descriptions of primitive magic and its effectiveness. "The latter half of the book has a special appeal to students of occult matters." We gather that the author accepts telepathy, witch doctor magic and the like as matters of course and does not bother to argue in their behalf.

(The remarkable works of Summers on Witchcraft, the Vampire, and similar subjects should be familiar to every student of the occult. Here we have a wealth of genuine scholarship which also accepts these so-called superstitions as completely factual. One notable result of our fine pseudo-scientific scepticism has been the near-paralysis of whole fields of research, in enormously productive material).

Mrs HL has also been experimenting with exercises given by Vincent in Lighted Passage; we would like to hear from other persons who have been working with these... She calls attention to a second operation by a spirit doctor, reported in Psychic Observer... And Mrs HL finds 'Vitic' a real help for certain types of nervousness (as a number of other readers have also reported).... Being more or less of a taffy adict, we also quote her opinion that even serious subjects (psychic research problems, for example) may be treated somewhat lightly, without solemnity at any rate, and become more readable without loss in exactitude.... Why most scientists, philosophers, religionists, uplift writers, imitators and quoters of them have to wear long faces, intone

through their noses, has always been a prime mystery to us... The God Thoth, according to the Egyptiams, created the world by uttering three great peals of laughter. Maybe it was sardonic, but somehow we prefer it to the thunders of Yahweh.

Mr Jack Tate (Ky.), known to many RR readers, is something of an authority on Rudolf Steiner, and from the occult angle thinks Dion Fortune the best of Western writers. (We agree. Whoever reads her Psychic Self-Defense with an understanding and interlinear eye, will get a picture of modern operative occultism unobtainable elsewhere. Also, her Mystical Qabalah is the only systematic exposition of the great glyph of the TREE, and a remarkably fine piece of writing. Apart from this, there is only the Middle Pillar and Garden of Pomegranates of Dr Israel Regardie, also invaluable on this subject.) Mr Tate also thinks that "if the reincarnation theory is substantiated anywhere, it is in the 2500 Life Readings given by Edgar Cayce... He reminds us that a book by Gina Cermenara based on 15 life readings by Cayce will appear shortly, and says it will give the sceptics something to worry about.

Mrs MH (Va.) also refers to The Earth Upsets (Chase Salmon Osborn, Waverly Press, Baltimore, Md. 1927, probably O.P.) and sends us two pages of quotes. We understand Governor Osborn is read and respected by scientific authorities. Like a number of other writers, he predicts the submergence of the Japanese archipelago, and here's one quotation from it:

> "The earth sweats and has fevers; it buckles and creeps, it has boils and cancers and ulcers; it has psoriasis and toxic tremors; it sinks and swells, there is no such thing as inertia or status quo ante. Something is happening to our planet daily; it swirls giddily on its axis, rushing as a drunken driver round its orbit, swaying to and fro or capsizing as a small craft yaws or submerges at sea - a sorry old raft in an ocean of ether.."

Where, OH where can we buy a copy of The Earth Upsets? We always thought there was something wrong with this spinning stone, 'dust mote whirled up by the Sun's chariot wheel' - and now we know it is even worse than we feared.

Mr C.K.S., who predicted a disaster for Japan, for November 15 last, sends us a quote from his communicator, Capt.F.C.le D.,deceased. The Captain gives some details about himself, then goes on to explain that all predictions are made on the basis of conditions as existing at the time; they deal with probabilities only, and their failure should not call forth unjust 'aspersions.' We thank the Captain, and assure him that these facts are well understood even on the level of our own insignificant I.Q. - and that no aspersions were intended. The existence of fore-knowledge, at least on occasion, is indubitable, Predictions should be recorded, and their failure does not invalidate the general principle.

Eleven years ago last month, the Chicago Herald Examiner printed an A.P. dispatch concerning the work of Professor Calligaris at the Royal University of Rome. He is said to have demonstrated that by pressing or agitating certain parts of the body (as, the right side of the thorax), one could 'see through a wall', or see objects 'at any distance. Professor Andrew C. Ivy of Northwestern University said he

had been working along similar lines for two years, but the chief difficulty was 'the devising of a conclusive experiment'. We wish Professor Ivy had untwined himself a little more, but clearly he thought it a worthy subject for research. Does anyone know where to get details of Dr. Calligaris experiments? ... The reticence, timidity, intellectual snobbishness of scientific workers, the pea-soup fogginess of our 'educated' classes, and the general ignorance and sappiness of the press, combine to suppress about half of all the really important 'leads' and facts that keep cropping up.... For example, clairvoyant vision has been used extensively in the study of the constitution of matter, but don't ask us to prove it, because no university department would admit it....any more than officialdom will admit the extent to which mediums and clairvoyants were used during the war... Author Vincent H.Gaddis sends us the memo. about Calligaris work.

Mr E.C.Krieger (Cinn.O.)has been collecting data about physiological phenomena connected with mediumship, and notes that clonic (muscular) spasms usually occur, followed by fatigue, 'as if the operative force were guided directly or indirectly via the more familiar bodily motions. We're not sure that we understand this quote, but about clonic spasms, it's a mistake to assert that they always accompany ectoplasmic extrusions, though they are common and sometimes violent. (Not Mr Krieger, but others have laid down the 'laws' of the ectoplasm, as if they actually knew all about it)... Mr Krieger also says that Nostradamus is among those who have predicted a great disaster for Japan..... also adds a note on the aura which we shall print elsewhere.

Several memo. from medium G.A.Emberg (Vancouver). A propos of vitality globules (spiritons, zo-ites), Mr Emberg says that when a boy he used to see floating colored balls, size of apples, also spirals. A copy of Spiritual Guide (Toronto) describes experiments by Mr Emberg, in which metal balls lost weight after being held by him -also the peculiar behaviour of a flash light, decreasing and then recovering its intensity.... A communication Mr E. says comes from his Guide, explains levitation as being an annulment of gravity by thought energy, and this is connected with a special theory of 'electrins' as the cause of gravity, set forth in a booklet dictated by the Guide. (We add, that levitation seems to be produced by a variety of means, including ectoplasmic formations, and does not necessarily indicate the presence of spirit operators. The subconscious energies of the sitters may govern the whole performance; furthermore, ectoplasm can be extruded under hypnotic suggestion... When this last fact became known, a considerable company of jackasses uttered loud brays, to the effect that spiritualism was now disposed of (!!!)... We refer again to our pet hypothesis, or grand principle of trying-to-think, viz.,of identical effects from diverse causes - or that green apples are not the only things that produce tummy-pains, and that Occam's razor is not such a safe instrument for pseudo-scientists to play with)...

A propos of which, a tidbit: "If there are more trees in the world than there are leaves on any one tree, then there must be at least two trees with the same number of leaves." This brief but beautiful test for straight thinking has broken up many friendships, dinner parties, even happy homes. Money back if not satisfied.

Round Robin:

ADDRESSES -----

DOUBT (Fortean Society Magazine). Box 192, Grand Central Annex, New York City.

Harbinger of Light. Adelaide, Australia (Bobbitt Agency)

HIBBERT JOURNAL. 178 Tremont St., BOSTON, Mass.

Journal of Parapsychology. Duke University Press, Durham, N. C.

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH, 40-E.34th St. New York,16.N.Y.

Light. 16 Qieensbury Place, So. Kensington, London, S.W. 7 (Bobbitt Agency).

MIND DIGEST, York, Penna. OCCULT REVIEW, Rider, London (Bobbitt)

PREDICTION. Link House, 24 Store St., London W.C.1 (Agency).

National Spiritualist, 765 Oakwood Blvd., CHICAGO 15, Ill.

Psychic Observer, Dale News Inc., Box 92, Lily Dale, N.Y.

THEOSOPHICAL FORUM, Covina, California.

(The Bobbitt Agency, 1609-10th Avenue, NASHVILLE 8, Tenn.
sells sample copies of psychic and spiritistic periodicals
and accepts subscriptions.)

* * * * *

The following booklets are for sale by TALK OF THE TIMES, Box 1467, SAN DIEGO 12. California.

GEOMANCY - The art of Divination by the Element of Earth. This is an Ancient and curious divinatory mode still employed in many Occult Orders. It is easily learned and highly esteemed by many students.

It is very interesting whether you believe in Divination or not.

There is no other separate treatise on this subject that is available in print today. It was compiled by the Round Robin Editor, size 8 x 11, high-class mimeo job, over 24 p.p. 2 copies for $3.50, single copy $2.00 postpaid.

LETTERS TO A SOLDIER, 4th printing. Reduced in size for your convenience, but nothing has been omitted from the original. Despite its title, this is not a war publication only; it is a very simple and direct explanation of what happens at the time of death, according to the concensus of Esoteric knowledge. The second part of the booklet is a simplified summary of basic ideas found in occultism and spiritism. No propaganda, but a good first book for persons unfamilar with occult modes of thinking. Compiled by Round Robin Editor. Size 5x8, 35 pp,with reading list, attractively mimeographed. 3 copies for $2.00 or single copy $1.00

Order from Talk of the Times, Box 1467, SAN DIEGO 12, California.